

Application No. 10/791,411
Amendment dated January 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:

a receptacle with a first opening and a second opening, wherein the first opening is adapted to receive the vial and the second opening is adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;

a slide extending below the second opening and adapted to allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the receptacle; and

a flap with a first end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the second opening, wherein the flap includes a weight secured to a second end thereof and the flap extends beyond the second opening and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the second opening and exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the slide.

9-10. (Canceled)

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11. (Currently amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:

a receptacle with a first opening and a second opening, wherein the first opening is adapted to receive the vial and the second opening is adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;

a slide extending below the second opening and adapted to allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the receptacle;

a flap with a first end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the second opening, wherein the flap extends beyond the second opening and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the second opening and exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the slide; and

a side wall attached to the receptacle near the narrow opening adapted to maintain the vial on the slide as the vial moves down the slide, wherein the side wall extends between the slide and the flap.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in claim 13, further comprising~~ An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:

a receptacle with a broad opening and a narrow opening, wherein the broad opening is adapted to receive the vial and the narrow opening is adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;

a slide attached to a portion of a wall of the receptacle near the narrow opening, extending below the narrow opening parallel to the wall, and adapted to allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the receptacle;

a flap with an end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the narrow opening, wherein the flap extends beyond the narrow opening and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the narrow opening, exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the slide, and pivot away from the vial to allow the vial to move down the slide; and

a side wall attached to the wall near the narrow opening, extending below the narrow opening between the slide and the flap, adapted to maintain the vial on the slide as the vial moves down the slide.

15. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a platform attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial after the vial has moved down the slide.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:

- a receptacle with a narrowing peripheral wall, which forms a broad opening facing upward adapted to receive the vial, and a narrow opening facing downward adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;
- a slide attached to the wall near the narrow opening and extending below the narrow opening parallel to a portion of the wall near an end of the slide attached thereto, adapted to ~~force the vial into a position parallel to the slide as the vial leaves the receptacle through the narrow opening~~ support the vial as it leaves the receptacle, and allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the receptacle along the slide;
- a weighted flap with an end thereof pivotally attached to the wall near the narrow opening opposite the slide so that the flap extends beyond the narrow opening and partially obstructs a path of the vial as the vial moves down the slide, the flap adapted to contact the vial and force the vial into a position parallel to the slide as the vial leaves the narrow opening and moves down the slide, exert pressure on the vial to hold the vial against the slide and slow the vial's movement, and pivot away from the vial in response to pressure from the vial to allow the vial to leave the receptacle and move down the slide;
- a side wall attached to the wall near the narrow opening, extending below the narrow opening between the slide and the flap, adapted to maintain the vial on the slide as the vial moves down the slide; and
- a platform attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial after the vial has moved down the slide.